

Politics of the Day

DEMOCRATIC EXPANSION.

The people of this country seem to have divided themselves into three sections or parties regarding the question of expansion.

First, Those who believe that having driven Spain out of her colonies and set the people free, it is now our duty to stand by them and consult, advise, help, and, if need be, protect them until they can establish independent republics, or decide of their own will to become integral parts of the great republic of the United States. This is the true Democratic theory, and it is so ably and plainly set forth by Senator Cockrell in an interview that we hope every one will read it.

Second, Those who believe in adopting the European system of colonial expansion, and governing the people of the colonies by force of arms, regardless of their wishes or preferences. This is the Republican plan, as outlined by the administration at Washington, and we believe it will be eventually condemned by ninety per cent. of our citizens.

Third, Those who think that, the war being over, our business with the islands and their people is at an end, and that our ships and armies should return home and leave them a prey once more to Spanish greed and retributive vengeance, or let them come under the dominion of any foreign power that may choose to grab them. In short, that our whole duty is done, and we should get out of the islands. This idea is held principally by the limited number of our citizens who have graduated in the old Federal school of exclusiveness, like Senator Hoar of Massachusetts. We have heard of only one prominent Democrat who leans that way, namely, Congressman Bailey of Texas, and the vigorous opposition now being made to his continuance as leader of the minority in Congress shows very clearly that he has no following among Democrats generally.

Democrats have always been expansionists in the sense herein expressed, and this just, sensible and humane policy, inaugurated and carried out by our great Democratic statesmen—Jefferson, Jackson and Polk—has made us great and respected by all the nations of the earth. The Monroe doctrine, as we understand it, means not only that Europe shall not meddle with American affairs, but that the Spanish islands that we have set free shall remain so.

An Army of 100,000.

The announcement by President McKinley that he will need a regular army of 100,000 men is made in a style which would become a Czar or a Sultan. No thought of leaving to Congress any consideration of the number of able-bodied men who should be drawn from the pursuits of industry and converted into human machines for the shedding of blood has accompanied that announcement. He apparently does not think the Senators who represent the States of this Union or the Representatives of the masses of the people fit to form a judgment on that question. It is for the would-be war lord to decide how many he wants, and it is for Congress to furnish the raw material for his purpose.

The better to enforce his demand, too, our war lord loftily addresses Congress in these words:

"It is my purpose to muster out the entire volunteer army as soon as the Congress shall provide for the increase of the regular establishment."

This, of course, is a threat. There is not a Senator or Representative who is not being urged and entreated by volunteer regiments from his own State to obtain their discharge from service, and the intent to make the detention intolerable is indicated to obtain the passage of the 100,000 measure.

The slinger of a large army to a self-governing republic does not require any argument. It is not the common musketry, but the high officer who is dangled by his associates and entertained at banquets and festivals, while the furloughed private is glad to get a job at shoveling snow from the streets. The private will not conspire, but the soldier who holds a military commission is the inevitable foe to the civil equality and peaceful progress of his fellow citizens.

There is no necessity for 100,000 men in the army. The temporary garrisoning of Cuba will not require over 25,000. Nor will as many be required for the Philippine Islands, unless gross mismanagement there prevails. —New York News.

McKinley's Message.

McKinley's message to Congress is mostly devoted to ancient history, for in these days of electricity such an event as the war against Spain last summer may be classed among the relics of the past. However, when the President was engaged in archaic researches he might as well have been honest and fair in his recitals.

It is to be noted that he gives Admiral Sampson all the credit for smashing Cervera's fleet, when there isn't a child in the United States who doesn't know that Sampson was absent from the battle and that Admiral Schley was in active command of the fleet. With a like blindness to fact and a like partiality for administration pets, McKinley gives Shafter praise and mentions General Miles only incidentally as bringing reinforcements to Santiago. These instances of official favoritism are not calculated to give the Ameri-

can people much confidence in the other conclusions put forth by the President.

With fine satire and splendid disregard of existing conditions the President says the nation is rejoicing in a steadily increasing degree of prosperity. If he had said that the trusts of the nation are thus rejoicing no one would be found to differ with him, but the farmers, the mechanics, the merchants and the laboring men are still waiting anxiously for that long promised dawn of prosperity. Certainly a document which lacks essential elements of truth in any of its statements may be suspected of unsoundness in most of its pronouncements. —Chicago Democrat.

Cause of Low Prices.

Under the caption, "The Cause of Cheap Cotton," the Kansas City Journal makes a labored effort to show that the cause of the extremely low price of cotton is over-production, and, as evidence, shows that in 1898 the cotton crop of the United States "is reported" at about four times the amount actually raised in 1872.

We will admit that the Journal's figures are correct; and we will further admit that the wheat crop is large in proportion, and that the oats crop and the hog crop and the hay crop, and all other crops—including the human crop—are very much larger than in 1872. In fact, we will go the Journal's whole length and breadth and depth as to the enormous increase of crops of all kinds since 1872, and more, and then ask: Is the Journal's claim good, or its case proven? Not a bit of it.

The Journal merely skims the surface. It should dig in, and go down, and get at the bottom facts, and then draw accurate conclusions. Why are all products selling at lower prices now than in 1872? Simply this: While all kinds of crops have increased at a rapid rate, the money crop has not only increased, but, by the fraudulent demonetization of silver in 1873, the crop of actual redemption money of the whole country has been greatly reduced, and consequently, a dollar will buy more of the productions of the farm and plantation now than in 1872.

And that is not all. "The half has not been told." Crops of all kinds are increasing, and they will continue to increase faster than the crop of gold, and prices of everything the "common people" have to sell will decrease more and more, and the price of gold will yet increase, until the owners of the gold, and securities payable in gold, will own the balance of the people, even as the white man owned the black one in slavery days, with this difference: then, the white owner had an interest in the person of the black, so it was to his interest to care for him while well and cure him when sick. Now, the gold owner and the bond owner have only an interest in the property of the poor white slave; and, when he fails to pay his interest promptly, mercilessly kicks him off the property, sick or well, and turns it over to another, leaving the victim of the crime of '73 to freeze or starve. What cares he, soulless and unconscionable oppressor of God's poor ones; he has another slave to take the place, and when the new one gets old or sick, he gets yet another. And thus is the crown of thorns actually pressed down upon the brows of the poor victims of Republican treachery, and thus are they crucified on a cross of gold.

And so will it ever be until this dark night of the single gold standard gives way to the glorious dawn of bimetalism which is dawning, we confidently believe, will come in the year of our Lord 1900.—Carl M. Brosius.

Trust Methods.

What is the first thing the trust managers do when a new trust is formed? They cut down the wages of their employees. What is the next thing thought of and put into execution by the new trust? The prices of its products are raised, and the consumer taxed. And what is the third result brought about by the forming of a trust? The strangling of all competition, which kills opposition and places the employee and the consumer equally at the mercy of the combine.

These are consecutive steps of progress made by the trusts. These are the inevitable results—the results, indeed, for which trusts are created. It is useless for Republicans to argue that trusts are legitimate business enterprises and that to oppose trusts is to become a foe to the "best interests" of the country. Trusts are combinations made for the set purpose of making money irrespective of the rights of the people, the rights of labor, of the consumer or of competitors. Under the trust-creating, trust protecting rule of the Republican party there will never be any redress for the wrongs which these combines inflict.

Protectionism Exploded for Good.

The persistent and heavily increased deficit since the Dingley law went into operation shows its failure as a revenue producer, while large exports of domestic manufactures underselling the foreigners in their own markets demonstrate the absurdity of its protective features. In short, the protectionist theory has been exploded, and as a political issue it is dead as a door nail. —New York Herald.

The old custom of watchmen calling the hour of night is still retained in two localities in London, namely, New Inn and Ely Place.

CYCOMETER FOR CANOE.

Distances Covered by Canoeists Can Be Accurately Measured.

A canoe trip through the everglades of Florida, described by former Lieutenant Hugh L. Willoughby, of the Rhode Island Naval Reserves, in a book just published, is of particular interest to wheelmen, because all the distances he covered were measured by a cyclometer.

All ordinary means of marine measurement are useless in the everglades, and as it was necessary to keep a record of the distance involved Lieutenant Willoughby devised the scheme whereby he used a cyclometer for the purpose.



CYCOMETER FOR THE CANOE.

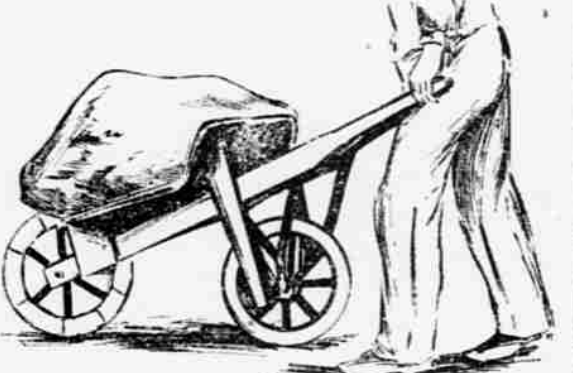
pose successfully. He attached the front fork of an old bicycle to the stern of his canoe. In the jaws of this was swung a 28-inch bicycle wheel, the tire being equipped with a series of small paddles, so fastened that they regulated the speed of the wheel to that of the boat. The cyclometer was attached in the usual manner.

Repeated experiments with the device demonstrated to Lieutenant Willoughby that the slip of the wheel was constant, and that its trailing behind the boat recorded reliable measurements on the cyclometer even when going at a slow gait. He says that the wheel and cyclometer gave excellent results as a log of the trip. Canoeists and oarsmen might take a hint from this for their next tours on the water. An old bicycle wheel is easy to get, and it must add to the pleasure of the trip to keep an accurate record of the distance covered.

A BICYCLE WHEELBARROW.

The Operator Relieved of the Weight Entirely.

The principle of the bicycle applied to the wheelbarrow is a novel device brought out by a Canadian manufacturer, but it can be easily made at home. The two wheels are arranged as shown, the extra one being supported in such a manner that it can be brought into use whenever desired. This is effected by a notched arrange-



TWO-WHEELED BARROW.

ment on the frame supporting the rear wheel and engaging with a corresponding part on the inside of the shafts. With the weight disposed on two wheels the movement of the barrow is merely a pushing one, almost the entire weight being removed from the arms. When an obstacle, such as a curbstone or uneven surface, is encountered it is very easily surmounted by depressing the handles, when the rear wheel is made to act as a fulcrum, and the weight readily lifted over.

Hospital for Sick Plants.

A hospital under the care of Prof. B. T. Galloway, chief of the division of vegetable pathology, has been established by the Department of Agriculture of the United States Government for the treatment of sick plants. Diseases affecting plants and vegetables, as well as remedies, are investigated. The work will not only benefit farmers, but all lovers of flowers. A violet plant was placed under a glass jar, where it was provided with only poor ventilation. Germs of a disease known to be injurious to this plant were mixed with water and sprayed upon it. Soon large yellow spots appeared upon the leaves. After the jar was removed, the patient rapidly recovered, showing that the germs would have had no effect had the air in which the plant grew been fresh. The plants in a row of young corn are given water in different quantities, mixed with certain proportions of salts, as found in natural soil. When certain strengths of salt are added, the little mouths of the hairlike tubes of the roots, through which the plants drink, become so badly puckered that the plants starve. Plants growing in salt marshes and by the seaside are supplied with larger amounts. By testing the amount of salt in his soil, the farmer can ascertain how healthy his corn is likely to be.

Brunettes Steadily Increasing.

Within two hundred years, it is predicted, blue eyes and light hair are destined to disappear. Statistics show that in England, out of one hundred blondes, only fifty-five succeeded in marrying, while out of one hundred brunettes, seventy-nine find husbands. Moreover, history confirms these statistics. From the remotest times the blonde has been giving way to the brunette. The "Iliad" refers continually to light-haired warriors and women, but now the shores of the Archipelago are inhabited by brunettes. In the days of the Romans the Gauls were blondes, but their descendants do not resemble them. And among the Germans, Scandinavians and Anglo-Saxons the proportion of brunettes is steadily increasing.

The Less Money a Man Has the Stronger.

is his belief in the equal distribution of wealth.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

Suggestions on Making Palatable and Nutritious Ensilage—Most Farmers Cultivate Too Much Land—Stock Shows Preference for Salted Hay—Notes.

The dairyman who owns a silo usually needs very little advice on the points involved in making palatable and nutritious ensilage, but suggestions are always welcome, and the following from the American Cultivator is worth considering:

There is not the need that used to be supposed of doing the work of cutting in a single day, so that fermentation could not begin until after the top was covered with some weight to press the silage together. The effect of fermentation is to liberate carbonic acid gas. This is heavier than the common air, and therefore remains in the silo unless there is a hole near the bottom to send in a current of fresh air. The greatest care should be taken to see that insects or mice have not drilled holes through the woodwork of the silo during the time it has been unoccupied. If such holes can be found they should be covered and closed with cement.

The shorter the silage is cut the better it will keep, because short silage packs itself closely and incloses little air. It is the amount of which the silage holds at the beginning that determines how much it shall ferment. If the amount is small the silage will come out sweet. The richness of the silage has much to do with its sweetness or sourness. Corn that is nearing maturity, but without drying of the leaf, makes the best silage. It has more sugar and starch, and these, so soon as they ferment, are turned into carbonic acid gas, and thus stop any further fermentation. On the other hand, green corn that is nowhere near maturity, and has little sweetness, makes a very poor silage, and is mostly very sour. So, too, is silage made from putting in whole cornstalks. These cannot be packed closely, and the result is that many of the stalks will be almost rotten when taken from the silo.

Cultivate Fewer Acres.

I am surprised at the small crops of grain, grass, potatoes, etc., that are grown on many farms. The lack of sufficient good stable manure is largely responsible for this. A few years ago a company was formed and a large strawboard factory built at the county seat of my county. Since then every farmer within a radius of ten miles of this establishment fortunate enough to have any straw has sold it at the very low figures of from \$1 to \$2 per ton. With the money received for the straw some cheap grade commercial fertilizer is purchased. As a consequence the soils of the farms are becoming thinner each year from a lack of sufficient humus to make it lively and friable. It is very poor practice to sell straw from the farm. Keep enough stock to work over all the straw and rough feed into manure and then judiciously apply it to the fields. The labor will be more than doubly paid for by increased crops. Another trouble with a great many farmers is their greed for too many acres. How common it is to hear a man boasting of the number of acres of corn or wheat he is putting out, but when the harvest comes he usually has about one-third less acres than at seeding time. It is an old adage that "illage is manure." We have this proven by seeing a field that has had an extra amount of work put upon it before sowing it to wheat. The crop will be much larger than on a field only half prepared. If we expect to keep our farms in a state of fertility that will enable us to grow paying crops we must concentrate our work upon fewer acres and have them well fertilized. It pays much better to raise a given number of bushels of wheat from ten acres than to raise the same number from twenty. By doubling the producing capacity of an acre half of the land can be in grass, thus giving it a chance to recuperate. —M. C. Thomas, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Favors Salting Hay.

The farmer who guides himself by what he reads about salting clover hay will probably become confused, says a writer in the Stockman. One authority says never salt it—it is dangerous to do so. Another no less confidently assures us that it should be salted; he has always done so, likewise has his father. Plainly when doctors differ the individual may use his reason about the matter, and if possible decide for himself. The objections against salt are that it is deliquescent and therefore an increase of moisture is to be expected from its use. After many years of observation and experience we have concluded that for us salting clover hay is very desirable. We have endeavored to arrive at this conclusion intelligently by repeating tests both in the mow and stack. The clover which is sufficiently moist to keep without salting will not suffer from heat if salt is applied. While it is altogether probable that this drawback is balanced by the preserving quality, for why should salt cease to preserve hay when it is applied to other commodities for this purpose? Yet we can admit, if necessary—which our observation does not warrant—that salting does not materially preserve the hay, and still claim our case. The preference of the stock for the salted hay is apparently a sufficient guide.

Suppose the individual had to partake of his food unsalted, would he not make an objection? Neither would he be reconciled to this if his salt came in daily or weekly installments.

Winter Protection for Strawberries.

There is no question but some good protection is almost essential to the strawberry plants, but authorities dis-

agree about the best to be adopted. While some advocate manure, others object to it, and recommend straw leaves, litter or anything of this nature.

The chief objection to manure seems to be that seed weeds are apt to be sown with it on the strawberry bed. But if one's manure is as good as it ought to be seed weeds ought not to be spread in this way. Moreover, only well-rotted manure is fit for this work and the weed seeds will generally have died out before manure reaches this stage. The value of the manure in enriching the plants is often overlooked by those who prefer other things for protection. All through the winter the strength of the manure is soaking into the soil, and by spring when the protection is removed the plants are fertilized richly and ready to spring into immediate and rapid growth.

But if one has no suitable manure at hand, the next best thing is probably forest leaves, collected in the woods and mixed with just enough straw to keep them in place. A few twigs of the trees gathered with the leaves will be of value. These spread over them will help to keep them from being blown about by the wind.

Straw is good as a protection, but sawdust is not so easily handled. The rain makes the sawdust cling to the plants so that it sometimes proves quite a nuisance. Potato vines can often be utilized for protection of strawberries, especially in connection with a few leaves. The two mixed together make a cheap and effective covering. —Wisconsin Agriculturist.

Some Poultry Do Not.

Do not keep 1,000 fowls in quarters built for but 500. Do not try to be a fancier before you are a common poultry man. Do not try to teach others until you know something yourself. Do not change to a new variety until you have fully worked the old one. Do not study the art of cure until you have mastered the art of prevention. Do not fail to remember that health in the henery is brought about by cleanliness. Do not be led away by reports of others' good success; try to beat it yourself. Do not boast and think you know it all. Do not fail to read of the experiences of others and try to profit by their loss. Do not trust alone to hired help, but try to do some of the work yourself.

American Butter in England.

The butter product of the United States bids fair to become a rival of the Denmark product in England. This is possible from the shrinkage of space brought about by present-day conditions, making possible the transportation and delivery of butter in the English market fifteen days after making. Under these conditions insuring the sweetness of the product being unimpaired, and notwithstanding the hesitancy of the English merchants to engage in the butter trade with the United States, the product of this country promises to obtain a firm foothold and to command the highest prices abroad.

Training Poultry.

To build a comfortable poultry house will not prevent the fowls from roosting on the tree limbs in winter unless they are taught that the house is for their accommodation. This is done by catching them at night and placing them in the house, where they must be confined for a week, at the end of which time they will have forgotten their former roosting places and when given their liberty will return at night in their new quarters.

Good Farm Hands Scarce.

A good hired man is the exception rather than the rule. There are many men who can plow and perform general farm work in a routine manner, but the man who understands what is required, and who needs not be told what to do, is indispensable. Intelligence is necessary to make a good farm hand, and the best men get high wages.

Farm Notes.

It is estimated that the cost of protecting trees to prevent disease, by the use of spraying mixtures, is less than one-fifth of a cent per tree, and the spraying may also increase the profit on fruit.

Sulphur is injurious when given in the food during damp weather to animals or poultry. For hens that are shedding their feathers it is beneficial if added to the food in small quantities twice a week. It is also excellent for hens that are laying.

The largest profit for butter is in winter if it is of the best quality, because it can then be kept to better advantage and more easily shipped to distant markets. The cost will depend on how much ensilage was stored this fall.

The honeysuckle is a hardy plant, and in a few years forms a thick covering to a veranda or lattice frame. The common morning glory is another climbing plant which should not be overlooked, as it grows from seed and reaches a great height the first year.

A difference of only 1c per pound received for a steer may amount to \$10 or \$12 for the entire animal. To fatten the steers is to not only increase their weight, but also to add quality. Profits are small on all goods, but the largest profits are received only for the best.

While it may be better to cut out the old wood from blackberries in winter, after the ground is frozen, it will be an advantage at this time to plow under the crab grass and weeds as so much green material. But few blackberry fields are manured, yet no crop responds more readily to good treatment than blackberries.

Steers of the beef-producing breeds have large frames which can hold an abundance of meat. The more meat the farmer can crowd on a frame the larger his profit, and he, therefore, should not object to his steers being heavy feeders, as they will make their gain in a shorter time than if dainty.

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

Attributes of Money.

Each coin is basic, and it is coin and not commodity that is money. There are absolutely no foreign balances that are not payable in either coin, just as in a nation with worthless bark money there is no balance not payable in bank. If one nation uses the coins of another both the clearings and balances between said nations will be on the basis of the coins of both nations so used, and this is the principal method by which money gets general power without extensive recognition with attendant expense and delay. Certificates or notes given in purchase are also an effective method, provided their redemption is assured by mandatory coinage where redemption is called for, and nothing left to the discretion of faithless officials.

There are some who assert that only one metal is or can be fluent, but at the same time will profess to pledge parity of or "between the two metals." In the propositions in hand, however, by "a" commodity is really meant any "commodity" with "fluency" "given," and the author of same holds that fluency is given to both gold and silver, while only gold is fitted for fluency, which is honest, while said officials are either dishonest or incompetent.

If part of the coin be advanced in its power by using the other part only for local balances, or by redemption direct in advanced part, or by enforced legal exceptions in its use, the clearings, as well as balances, will all be on the basis of the part with restricted local power. Of course, when part of the coin is thus made subsidiary, the need of limitations will appear urgent in just the proportions the part with unlimited power bears to a safe superstructure of credit, and general prices will fall in proportion to the coin made subsidiary. It is a dummy or a knave who will not see the change now made from a nominal coin basis to a practical single part of the coin.

Coinage of Silver.

Whatever else money may be defined to be, it is purchasing power. The possession of money enables its possessor to command a certain quantity of other things in exchange for it. Referred to a particular commodity, this purchasing power expresses itself as the price of that commodity. It can, therefore, be truly expressed only by reference to all commodities. In other words, the purchasing power of money is indefinitely except in terms of average prices.

In the language of John Stuart Mill: "The value of money is inversely as general prices, falling as they rise and rising as they fall." It does not define, for any true economic purpose, a dollar to call it 25.8 grains of standard gold or some convertible representative thereof. Since money is purchasing power the real meaning of a dollar, or of any other piece of money, resides in the extent of its purchasing power.

We cannot intelligently conceive of a money unit except as the embodiment of a certain amount of exchange power against other things in general. This conception is vital to any useful discussion of the economic, industrial and social aspects of the money question. The habit of thinking in terms of gold rather than in terms of things that gold stands for vitiates much that is attempted in argument on the subject and blinds the non-money and producing classes to the fatal weaknesses of the gold system.

Money in its origin and on principle is a mere convenience in connection with things, but those interested in adding to its value as measured by things have succeeded in making it more important and influential than all the productive functions of society combined.

Falling Prices.

The money-lending class stands back of the gold standard, and is responsible for its existence to-day. They favor it because it increases the value of their dollars.

They oppose free silver because, by bringing steady or rising prices, it would take from them their unearned increment and give it to those who have earned it. Perfect justice would be done if the dollar could be kept absolutely stable in its general purchasing power. This would work impartial justice to both money-lender and producer.

But if a preference is to be given to either it is better that it should be given to the producing classes, not only because they are weaker, but more especially because rising prices mean general prosperity, although they work temporary injustice to the holders of fixed incomes. They are compensated, however, by the greater security of their investments.

It is doubtful if there would be an excessive rise of prices under free coinage. The value of money—which is the level of prices—is fixed by supply and demand, and the supply of both gold and silver together has hardly kept up with the increase in business and population.

But if prices did not rise materially free coinage would prevent them from falling, and thus come nearer to establishing a dollar that retained a stable purchasing power, that robbed neither debtor nor creditor, neither money-lender nor producer—in other words, an honest dollar.

The largest gold coin in existence is worth about \$315. It is the ingot or "loaf" of Annam and its value is written on the coin with India ink.